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STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA ON EAST TIMOR

OCTOBER 25, 1984

Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja has stated that there was nothing to hide of the East Timor issue, and that outside world might be able to closely observe the growing development efforts in the province. Minister Mochtar made the statement in Jakarta on October 25, 1984.

The statement was also aimed at commenting on the current visit by an American Official to East Timor. According to Mochtar, such a visit could also be made by other officials of other friendly countries to check the truth of reports prepared by their embassies here. The American official, Charles Morrash, of the Indonesian desk of the United States Department, accompanied by Gene B.Christy, the First Secretary of the United States Embassy here, left for Dili on October 23 for a several-day visit to East Timor.

Minister Mochtar expressed the hope that with such a visit, the outside world have a better understanding on latest development and situation in East Timor. Minister Mochtar also said that there had been foreign reports so far on East Timor did not reflect the real condition and situation of the province, and they were not supported by sufficient evidence. Touching on human rights in East Timor, Minister Mochtar said that the situation was better than before. On October 21 some 600 detainees were released from their captivity in Atauro and they were returned to their home towns in East Timor, the Minister stated. He quoted recent statement by East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao that there would be no more detainees in Atauro by the middle of next year. "I hope that with such a development on human rights in East Timor the outside world will not easily fall for rumours on human rights issue in East Timor", Minister Mochtar asserted.

Touching on the current visit by the two US officials to East Timor, Minister Mochtar said that the visit might has a close relation with the current presidential election campaign in the United States. "President Reagan seemingly does not want to be accused by his opponent of less interest in human rights issues", Mochtar added. But, according to Mochtar , report of the East Timor visit by the United States officials would also be important for American politicians who had so far not been well informed on development East Timor. Minister Mochtar's comment seemed to be directed to 120 United States Congressmen who sent a letter to leadership of the Indonesia's House of Representatives last July, in which they expressed their concern over human rights situation in East Timor.